

**FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)**

**PROJECT FACT SHEET**

**MAY 1993**

**HNC REVISION: 14 JULY 1997**

**TAG REVIEW DATE: 26 AUGUST 1997**

**1. SITE NAME:** Green River Ordnance Plant

**SITE NUMBER:** E05IL009900

**LOCATION:**

**CITY:** Dixon  
**COUNTY:** Lee  
**STATE:** Illinois

**PROJECT NUMBER:** E05IL009903

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** 3

**ASR RAC:** 3

**TAG RAC:** 3

**2. POC'S:**

**GEOGRAPHIC DISTRICT:**

**Name:** Gary Chisholm  
**Office:** CELRL-DL-B  
**Phone:** (502) 625-7010

**GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION:**

**Name:** Patty Bertsch  
**Office:** CELRD-DL-M  
**Phone:** (513) 684-6248

**HEADQUARTERS:**

**Name:** J.R. Gibson  
**Office:** CEMP-RF  
**Phone:** (202) 761-4709

**ASR/INPR TEAM LEADER:**

**Name:** Richard L. Pike  
**Office:** CEHNC-OE-DC  
**Phone:** (256) 895-1559

**ASR SUPPORT DISTRICT:**

**Name:** Mary Jo Civis  
**Office:** CEMVR-ED-DO  
**Phone:** (309) 794-6010

**ASR TECHNICAL REVIEWER:**

**Name:** Thomas M. Meekma  
**Office:** SIOAC-ESL  
**Phone:** (815) 273-8739

**3. SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Green River Ordnance Plant (GROP) consisted of 8,342.34 acres located approximately 6.5 miles southeast of Dixon, Illinois, and 2 miles northwest of Amboy, Illinois, in Lee County. The facility covered Sections 7 and 8 and parts of Sections 5, 6, 17 and 18, Township 20 North, Range 10 East, and Sections 11 and 12 and parts of Sections 1, 2, 13 and 14, Township 20 North, Range 9 East. The majority of the original production and administration areas make up what is now

known as the Green River Industrial Park owned by various manufacturers and by First Industrial Corporation (FIC) from the General Services Administration (GSA). Former areas surrounding the production area, including the 90.7 acre tract of land utilized as the burning ground, are used for agricultural purposes. Various individuals use or lease the ammunition storage areas which are currently in use for storage of items ranging from farm equipment to cars and junk.

The climate is continental and is characterized by warm summers and cold winters with average winter temperature of 24° F and average summer temperature of 72° F. Elevations are 740 to 790 feet above sea level. Shallow moist depressions and irregularly shaped sand ridges exist throughout the area. Slopes generally range from zero to three percent, with greater slopes along drainage ways.

**4. SITE HISTORY:** A total of 8,342.34 acres was acquired in fee by Purchase and Declaration of Taking on 17 February 1942 for the establishment of GROF. Contract W-ORD-572 was awarded 30 January 1942 to Stewart-Warner Corporation, Chicago, Illinois, to provide consultant services, procure equipment, train personnel, and operate the plant. Contract W-741-ENG was awarded 7 February 1942 to J.L. Simmons Company, Inc., Decatur, Illinois, and Hazelet and Erdel, Chicago, Illinois, to jointly construct the plant and serve as architect-engineer-manager. The plant was improved with 421 structures and an extensive network of utilities, roads, and rail lines, including six major production lines used for load, assembly and packing of rockets, bombs, shells, projectiles, propelling charges, fuzes, and grenades. Structures included approximately 97 earth covered magazines and a number of above ground magazines. The first explosives production operations began 27 October 1942. By August 1945, all production at GROF had ceased.

On 25 August 1945, 641 acres were turned over to the Farm Credit Administration. On 12 July 1946, the remaining 7,701.34 acres were assumed by the War Assets Administration (WAA). On 30 June 1954, the U.S. Army reacquired 1,816.09 acres of the land that had been transferred to the WAA for possible reactivation of GROF. The remaining 5,885.25 acres were disposed of by WAA to former owners and other private individuals. In June 1959, the Army reported the 1,816.09 acres excess to the GSA. Approximately 1,052 acres of this land was deeded by GSA to FIC in May 1962 and has been developed as an industrial park. GSA deeded additional property of 443, 119 and 111 acres to FIC in May 1965, 1972 and 1976, respectively. A tract of 91 acres, representing the only burning ground at the installation, was transferred to a private individual in March 1969.

**5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

**AREA: A**

Size, Acres: 90.70  
Former Use: Open Burning/Open Detonation(OB/OD) Area  
Present Use: Agriculture  
Probable End Use: Same  
Ordnance Presence: Potential  
Type: Rockets, bombs, shells, projectiles,  
propelling charges, fuzes, and grenades

**AREA: B**

Size, Acres: 8,351.64  
Former Use: Ordnance production plant  
Present Use: Industrial park, agriculture, storage  
Probable End Use: Same  
Ordnance Presence: None

**6. CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Green River Ordnance Plant was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in May 1993.

**7. STRATEGY:**

**AREA A:** Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA)  
**AREA B:** No Further Action (NOFA)

**8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group recommended an EE/CA for Area A and NOFA for Area B. Area A has been farmed for the past seven years (1986-1993) without any finds of OE. The rationale for EE/CA at the burning ground is that there are suspicions of buried ordnance and a possibility of unexploded ordnance at the site.

The strategy for the remainder of the site acreage is NOFA as the site survey team determined that there was no potential for OE. Interviews with individuals who had worked at the site, results of water and soil testing and the decontamination manual for GROF rule out any potential for OE at the site. No OE was found on any GROF acreage.

**HNC Safety Comments:** There were three separate HNC comments and concurrence with ASR Findings and Recommendations. He remarked that the site survey team made no attempt to enter the former storage areas because access had been denied to the COE at the time of the INPR. He recommended that a renewed attempt be made to investigate these areas and that if there is continued refusal to provide access, that a release from liability be obtained.

Paperwork indicates that the district will have the action to write a letter.

**ASR Recommends the Following HTRW Actions:** (1)Check for presence of chemical constituents of explosives in the soil/water of the burning ground area and the production line areas (Groups 1-7). (2)Further soil sampling at the 90.7 acre burning ground and around buildings located in the production area. (3)Test for dinitrotoluene as well as for other explosive compounds listed in Table 9-1 of the ASR Findings.

**Natural Resources:** The ASR does not address presence of State and federally listed species at the site. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

**Historical Resources:** The ASR states that no archaeological surveys have been conducted in the GROF area. Consequently, no sites are currently recorded for the area. Any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

**9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA**